

Coastal Committee – Summary Recommendations
SURA BoT – 9 Nov 2006

Summary Recommendations:

1. *Support IOOS, but don't rely on it:* Don't rely solely on IOOS. Remain supportive of IOOS, recognizing that SCOOP is prototyping an important capability, but things within NOAA are looking increasingly problematic. SCOOP would and should exist without the IOOS. We should support the institutional coordination and end-user connection being developed in mid Atlantic (MACOORA) and the northeast (NERA/GoMOOS).
2. *Enhance regional focus to include eastern seaboard; support the nation:* Whatever we do must empower the locals and contribute to the national agenda. We should start by nurturing good connection with the individual states in the region, and strengthen/renew the connection to the SGA. We should also "follow the track" northeast, as do many hurricanes, to include institutions like Rutgers. The west coast has already organized, as have Great Lakes states. SURA should proactively support organization and extension to include the entire eastern seaboard.
3. *Diversify partnerships:* Consider federal agencies other than NOAA, such as FEMA, USACE and Navy/METOC. Don't give up on NOAA, but don't rely solely on IOOS/NOS within NOAA, consider other partnering entities such as Weather Service.
4. *Diversity funding:* Rather than remain dependent on the feds, we should diversify. Leverage the states and consider private-sector end users who might pay for services, such as insurance industry, power companies, petroleum exploration companies and gaming industry (in MS) & Google.
5. *Implement a marketing & funding strategy:* Look to SURA capabilities in Matt Thomas and Greg Kubiak. Let's develop a marketing strategy – spruce up the "demo" and take it on the road to look for opportunity.
6. *Create a Steering Committee:* Recognizing that the Coastal Research Committee is the oversight body for SCOOP, which is one of many possible Coastal Committee initiatives, we need to mature the organizational structure and function. We should develop a steering-committee structure for SCOOP that's analogous to what's in place for the IT Committee. Get this in place in time for the next Board of Trustees meeting.
7. *Implement committee oversight in setting budgets and accessing funding:* Develop a more formal, fair, open & transparent mechanism for budgetary oversight and institutional access to externally funded program. This will help nurture broader involvement within SURA, and should include a process for setting budgets during lean times.
8. *Enhance opportunities for participation & innovation:* Develop a process analogous to the ONR planning-letter, in which the program solicits ideas on how to leverage existing capacity in the region to support the program mission.